

Appl. No. 10/735,373
Amdt. Dated 8 December 2005
Reply to Final Office Action of 12 October 2005

Attorney Docket No. 26.0263 US

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REMARKS

Applicants' undersigned attorney thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended during a telephonic interview on December 6, 2005.

Claims 1-11 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 8-11 are rejected in the Office Action dated October 12, 2005 ("Office Action"). Applicants have amended claims 1, 2, 8 and 11 (shown in the Listing of Claims attached hereto) in order to more particularly and completely claim the present invention. Claim 1, as amended, includes features of allowed claim 2. Amended claim 1 also clarifies that the method pertains to calibrating *one or more individual acoustic receivers* mounted to an acoustic tool and not to calibration of the measurements of the acoustic tool, as disclosed or suggested by the prior art references of record in the case. Claim 8, as amended, specifies that a system for calibrating *one or more individual acoustic receivers* mounted on an acoustic tool comprises the acoustic tool being configured to calibrate *each of the plurality of receivers* while the receivers are mounted on the tool. Support for the amendments may be found at, for example, page 3, paragraph 10, and page 10, paragraph 47, of the specification. Claim 11 has been amended to clarify that the receivers are located between the upper and lower monopole source, as shown in, for example, Figure 1. No new matter has been introduced.

The Examiner has rejected independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vanderschel (US 4,531,204) or Marks (US 3,056,464) or Smith (US 2,970,666) in view of Medlin (US 4,953,137) or Tello et al. (US 5,377,160) and independent claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marks in view of Tello et al. and Vanderschel. Reconsideration is requested.

The independent claims have been amended, as discussed above, to clarify that it is one or more individual acoustic receivers that are calibrated while mounted on an acoustic tool. In contrast, the prior art of record relates to calibration of the tool *per se*, i.e., the final measurements that are derived from the logging tool, and not the individual receivers that are mounted on the tool. In this, the calibration method and

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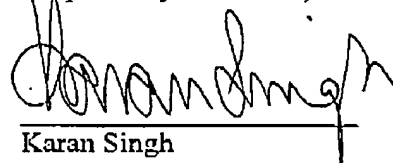
system of the instant claims may be utilized before the calibration techniques of the prior art such that the individual receivers may be calibrated prior to calibration of the logging measurements to be made by the acoustic tool. As discussed in the Background section of the present specification, prior calibration techniques calibrate the acoustic receivers before they are mounted to a tool. The present invention calibrates the acoustic receivers with the receivers mounted to the tool. The calibration of the acoustic receivers while mounted to the tool results in more accurate logging data. See, for example, pages 3 and 6 of the specification.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the grounds for rejection of independent claims 1 and 8 be withdrawn. Claim 11 specifies that the receivers are located between the upper and lower monopole source. The prior art of record does not disclose or suggest an upper and lower monopole source with the receivers between the sources.

In light of the above remarks, applicants believe that the present application and claims 1-11 are in proper condition for allowance. Such allowance is earnestly requested.

In the event that any additional fees or credits are due owing to this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the amount necessary to cover any fee that may be due or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-1122.

Respectfully submitted,



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